



OCT 18 1917

## FLORIDA HISTORIC SCENES ✓

### Part I ✓

#### SYNOPSIS OF FILM

1. St. Augustine,— Fort Marion, a Relic of Spanish Occupation.
2. Inside Old Fort Marion.
3. Old Barracks and Ascent to Ramparts.
4. St. Augustine Gates and Old City Wall.
5. St. Augustine Railroad Station, Sample of Spanish Architecture.
6. Old Houses in St. Augustine.
7. Entrance to Fort and Watch Tower, Key West.
8. A Tree Festooned with Spanish Moss.
9. Jacksonville, Florida, on the St. John's River.
10. A Steamship from New York at Jacksonville.
11. The Henry M. Flagler, Ocean Ferry from Key West to Havana.
12. Steamboat on the St. John's River.

# ✓ FLORIDA IN MID-WINTER

## Part II ✓

1. The Royal Poinciana at Palm Beach.
2. Lake Worth Yacht Basin.
3. Palm Beach Specialty Shop.
4. At the Breakers, a Daily Pastime.
5. Avenues of Palm.
6. Palm Beach in January.

## FLORIDA, HISTORIC AND MODERN

THE Spanish explorer, Ponce de Leon, was a companion of Christopher Columbus in one of his voyages to the New World. An Indian of the Bahamas told de Leon of a glorious land to the north where was located a wonderful fountain whose waters, it was said, would drive away old age forever. Many other stories were told of the land, and Ponce de Leon, now no longer in his youth, determined to find the country and test the powers of the wonderful spring. In 1513, on Easter Sunday, he touched the shore of the mainland which, because of the day and the beauty of the country, he named Pascua Florida, Flowery Easter. Some years later, with the dreams of the fabulous fountain less vivid and the purpose of conquest and the conversion of the Indians more strong, he came again to the flowery land but made no permanent settlement.

For fifty years after the voyages of Ponce de Leon, explorers, both French and English, sought the shores of the New World, some of them for the sake of the gold that was supposed to be found there, others for the purpose of converting the Indians, and still others for love of conquest and adventure. No permanent settlement was made, however, until 1565 when the Spaniard, Menendez, drove out a colony of French settlers and founded the town of St. Augustine. This quaint old city is to-day the chief historic attraction of the state. With the growth of Florida as a resort for winter tourists, the old sleepy Spanish town is, perhaps, losing some of its charm, still one may wander through its narrow streets where low whitewashed houses with barred windows and overhanging balconies recall its Spanish origin.

At the northern end of St. George Street, the main artery of the town, stand the City Gates, old and gray, the only remnant of the great wall which in earlier days secured safety from outside approach.

A short distance from the City Gates is Fort Marion, one of the best preserved examples of early military architecture. Its walls echo no longer to the sound of the drum and the clanking of swords but to the chatter of tourists and the cries of children playing around its ramparts. The present fort occupies the site of the old log structure built by the early settlers. During the last part of the seventeenth century, Indian captives helped build the walls, which were completed nearly a hundred years later. The fort is built largely of coquina, a curious shell rock found in the locality. Visitors are shown the old powder magazine, the cells where famous Indian chiefs were once imprisoned, and they may hear thrilling tales of secret passages, dark dungeons, and slippery quicksands where the bodies of those executed by the Spanish conquerors are forever buried. Most sightseers climb the old stone staircase to the terrace on the ramparts to gain an extended view of the town and the St. John's River in its quiet windings sweeping by.

New St. Augustine if less historic is hardly less interesting than the old town. The new buildings necessary to accommodate the influx of visitors, while preserving the Spanish style of architecture, present a richer and lovelier appearance than could have been present to the imagination of earlier days.

Even the modern hotels simulate the old Moorish palace plus every modern luxury. The famous Hotel Ponce de Leon adheres to the old Spanish style with its flattened domes, towers and red-tiled roofs, while its courtyards present a tropical beauty in plants and flowers, cooled here and there by splashing fountains.

Beyond the fort to the north is a pleasant section of the town with winter residences and charming villas. Many of the great buildings of St. Augustine are made of coquina mixed with cement, a material whose durability and attractiveness has led to its general use in southern and southwestern cities.

Jacksonville, the largest city of Florida, is also its chief commercial and railroad center, and its largest seaport on the Atlantic Ocean. It is situated on the St. John's River about twenty-five miles from the mouth. Though not directly on the ocean the city is a deep-water port and vessels from northern cities and from foreign lands tie up at its wharves.

A number of years ago Jacksonville suffered from a great fire which destroyed more than two thousand buildings. Though it caused much suffering at the time, the city to-day is much more attractive than it otherwise would be; thousands of buildings have replaced those which were destroyed, streets have been widened and paved, parks and squares have been opened, and modern hotels built.

A trip to Jacksonville would be incomplete without a trip up the St. John's—Florida's largest river. It was formerly the chief highway and for many years the only avenue of approach to the interior of the state. The scenery along the river and its tributaries is so attractive that thousands of visitors make the trip every year. The shadows of the live oak, gum, magnolia, cypress and palmetto trees quiver on the amber-tinted, mirror-like water. The dogwood with its white star flowers, the orchids of delicate tints, the dainty perfumed jasmine, the festoons of gray moss hanging from the trees make a picture of indescribable beauty.

The waving canopy of Spanish moss is a conspicuous and characteristic feature of Southern scenery. Whole forests of live oaks are bedecked with long gray masses of it. It



seems inappropriate to think of any commercial value to this plant which nature so evidently intended for decorative purposes only. The moss is, however, used to a considerable extent as a filling for bedding and upholstery.

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## Part II

There are many winter resorts along the east coast of Florida but Palm Beach is the most famous of them all. It has the largest hotels, the gayest season, and the most fashionable visitors of any winter resort in America. Bounded on the one side by the ocean and on the other by a beautiful lake; with its immense hotels filled with every convenience and many luxuries; with its gardens a riot of color; with its palm-shaded walks filled with richly dressed ladies and with its gleaming white beach dotted with hundreds of bathers, it seems almost like fairyland.

The Royal Poinciana is said to be the largest hotel in the world. It is a thousand feet long, six stories high, and will accommodate two thousand guests. It is really a city under one roof. There are innumerable public rooms, great piazzas, shops which supply every need, and various restaurants.

On the side of the hotel toward Lake Worth, sloping down to the quiet water, are beautiful gardens where the poinciana trees, from which the hotel is named, flame with their brilliant blossoms. On the other side of the Poinciana, pine-bordered walks and palm-shaded paths lead to the ocean and to the Breakers, another famous hotel situated on the shore. Here one sees innumerable "afromobiles," the only vehicles in use on the grounds. These are wicker chairs, made single or double, mounted on bicycle wheels, and propelled by negro boys seated behind.

During the morning hours the beach is alive with bathers. The Gulf Stream here flows near the coast and the

water is always warm and delightful. Besides the throngs who are enjoying the water, hundreds lie on the sands or sit at ease in comfortable hooded chairs watching the bathers or the ships far out at sea.

A little to the south is the brick colonial mansion of Mr. H. M. Flagler, whose name will always be connected with the railroads and resorts of the state. Perhaps his most important enterprise is the extension of the railroad to Key West and the ocean ferry which runs from that point to Havana, Cuba.

The Florida East Coast Railroad, of which Mr. Flagler has been the guiding spirit, has been an important factor in the development of the eastern part of the state. It has gradually been extended from Jacksonville to St. Augustine thence along the shore to Palm Beach and Miami. At these and other places Mr. Flagler has drained land, paved streets, built hotels, installed electricity and waterworks, and opened the region to winter visitors from the north and to settlers who have started fruit and truck farms.

The building of the railroad from Miami to Key West was attended with many difficulties. This part of the state is known as the Everglades. These are great swampy tracts with "not enough water for swimming and too much for farming." Large projects are under way for draining the Everglades and thus reclaiming millions of acres for farming purposes.

From the mainland of Florida a line of low-lying islands, or keys, extends southward. On the most southerly of these is Key West, a quaint place of about twenty thousand people, the most southerly town of the United States, and of great strategic importance. It is only sixty miles from the tropics, yet, because of the trade winds, it is cooler than some cities farther north. Cigarmaking and the sponge industry are two important occupations of the people.

By means of embankments and viaducts between the keys, across some places where the water is from twenty to thirty feet deep, the railroad was finally extended to Key West.

But Mr. Flagler's ambition was not yet satisfied. A hundred miles farther south lies Havana, chief city of Cuba and of the West Indies. We send every year to Cuba large quantities of food stuffs and manufactured articles, while we import from this fertile land sugar, tobacco, and a large and increasing amount of perishable fruits. Train connections with Havana would bring the charming resorts on the "Pearl of the Antilles," as Cuba is called, nearer to hundreds of winter tourists in our southern states and would enable fruits to reach northern markets quicker and in better condition than is possible by a water trip. To effect this rapid transportation at Key West the cars are run onto an immense boat, an ocean ferry, three hundred and sixty feet long. Besides the car deck, which accommodates more than a score of cars, the ferry has holds for several thousand tons of freight and large tanks for molasses.

This ferry boat, the largest in the world, was built at the Cramp Ship Yards in Philadelphia. In eight hours it covers the hundred-mile stretch between Havana and Key West, thus actually giving a through train service between the West Indies and the cities of the United States.

## HISTORIC FLORIDA

### QUESTIONS, TOPICS, SUGGESTIONS

1. Give briefly the history of Florida from the time of Ponce de Leon to the present.
2. Draw map of Florida. Locate places shown in the film.
3. What has great effect on the climate of Florida? Why?



4. How does vegetation of Florida compare with that of your state?
  5. What effect has the Panama Canal upon the commerce of Key West? Why?
  6. What are the principal occupations of the people of Florida?
  7. Name principal agricultural and manufactured products.
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#### QUESTIONS ON THE FILM

1. What form of arch supports the ramparts in Fort Marion? Why so named?
2. What is a bastion? Describe the one as seen in the film. What purpose did they serve?
3. How did cannon and men reach the ramparts?
4. Where did the soldiers live? What soldiers were they?
5. In what does Spanish architecture differ from any other? Describe ancient buildings and modern reproductions as seen in the film.
6. Where was the watch tower situated with reference to the walls of the fort at Key West? Describe its appearance.
7. Describe the appearance of trees covered with Spanish moss. Tell uses to which the moss is now put.
8. Compare appearance of Jacksonville with that of St. Augustine.
9. Describe the steamboats at Jacksonville.
10. What is peculiar about the boat in the scene entitled "Ocean Ferry?"

## FLORIDA IN MID-WINTER

### QUESTIONS, TOPICS, SUGGESTIONS

1. Why has Florida become a great winter resort?
  2. What natural beauties attract the visitor?
  3. What has been done for his accommodation?
  4. What man in particular has done most for Florida? In what ways?
  5. Describe the different species of Florida palm trees. Are all natives of Florida?
  6. Describe the land surface of Florida. What is being done to open the state to settlers?
  7. To what tribes do the Indians of Florida belong? Describe their past and present conditions.
  8. What land animals, birds and fishes may be seen in Florida?
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### QUESTIONS ON THE FILM

1. Describe the hotels shown in the film. At what time of year was the picture taken?
2. Locate Lake Worth. Is it salt or fresh water? Is the Indian River salt or fresh water?
3. What is the general type of architecture of hotels and other buildings? How do you know?
4. Describe pastimes of the guests at the hotels.
5. What is an "afromobile?" Describe one.

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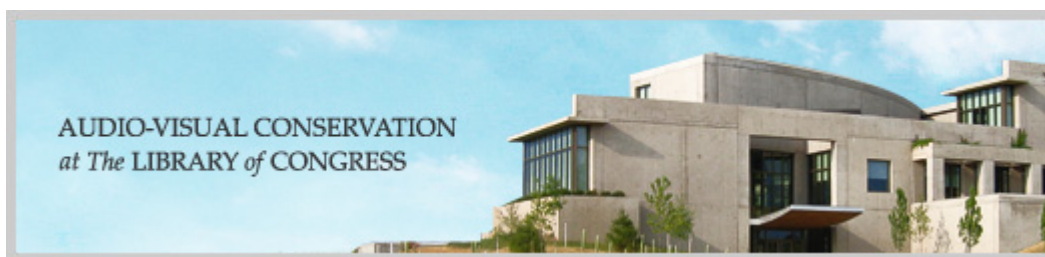
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